FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH IN PICTURES

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EXCELLENT LUMBER LOST WHEN BIG FIR BECOMES FUEL

FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
MADISON, WISCONSIN

When the cook in this Pacific Coast logging camp finds his wood pile getting low he orders a few big Douglas fir logs to be rolled off at a siding and cut into stovewood. One of the logs which found its way to the cookhouse range, a five-foot Douglas fir containing several thousand board feet of excellent lumber, is shown here. At the same time the woods all about were filled with a tangle of broken spruce and thrown hemlock like that shown in the lower photograph. There appears to be any amount of wood here better suited to burning than to any other use.

Cutting the big log into stovewood typifies the low value placed on logs in forests far from consuming centers and the difficulty of conserving wood for its highest use. In the absence of a trunk-line railroad near this logging operation the logs are hauled to the ocean at the edge of the forest on the logging railway and rafted to the mill. Because of the high cost of transportation and handling, the woods value of the logs is not high enough to prohibit their use for stovewood. The large proportion of dry heartwood in the big logs makes them more desirable than small trees for burning in the cook's range and bunkhouse stoves. They can also be handled more conveniently and at less cost per unit of volume of wood and they are easier to saw than broken or otherwise defective logs.

It is doubtful that the replanting of every available acre of forest land with trees could provide wood enough to keep the nation supplied under the present wasteful methods of use.

The U. S. Forest Products Laboratory states that to supplement reforestation wood users must learn to save more than four billion cubic feet of timber every year through improved methods of logging, manufacture, and use.

Photographs by Forest Products Laboratory,
U. S. Forest Service